

What is claimed is:

1. An asymmetric multilane towed array for towing by a tow platform comprising:

a support cable having a first end for connection to the tow platform and an opposing distal end, said support cable including both mechanical and signal components;

at least one array connected to said mechanical and signal components of said support cable; and

a depressor connected to the distal end of said support cable for spreading said support cable in a substantially lateral direction from one side of the tow platform.

2. The system according to claim 1 wherein said support cable is streamlined in shape to include a rounded leading nose portion and a tapered tail portion trailing the nose portion.

3. The system according to claim 1 wherein the mechanical component of said support cable includes a load bearing cable housed therein along an entire length thereof for providing a

load bearing mechanical connection between said support cable and said depressor.

4. The system according to claim 2 wherein the mechanical component of said support cable includes a load bearing cable housed therein along an entire length thereof for providing a load bearing mechanical connection between said support cable and said depressor.

5. The system according to claim 4 wherein the signal component of said support cable includes at least one array connector for communications connection with said depressor.

6. The system according to claim 4 further comprising a casing formed in a streamlined shape around said support cable.

7. The system according to claim 1 wherein the signal component of said support cable includes at least one array connector for communications connection with said depressor.

8. The system according to claim 7 wherein said support cable is streamlined in shape to include a rounded leading nose portion and a tapered tail portion trailing the nose portion and wherein at least one array connector is in the tail portion of said support cable.

9. The system according to claim 1 further comprising a casing formed in a streamlined shape around said support cable.

10. The system according to claim 2 wherein said load bearing cable is positioned at the nose portion of said support cable.

11. An asymmetric multiline towed array system for towing by a tow platform comprising:

a single support cable having a first end for connection to the tow platform and an opposing distal end, said single support cable including both mechanical and signal components;

a plurality of array lines connected to said mechanical and signal components of said single support cable; and

a single depressor connected to the distal end of said single support cable for spreading said single support cable in a substantially lateral direction from one side of the tow platform.

12. The system according to claim 11 wherein said single support cable is streamlined in shape to include a rounded

leading nose portion and a tapered tail portion trailing the nose portion.

13. The system according to claim 11 wherein the mechanical component of said single support cable includes a load bearing cable housed therein along an entire length thereof for providing a load bearing mechanical connection between said single support cable and said single depressor.

14. The system according to claim 12 wherein the mechanical component of said single support cable includes a load bearing cable housed therein along an entire length thereof for providing a load bearing mechanical connection between said single support cable and said single depressor.

15. The system according to claim 11 wherein the signal component of said single support cable includes at least one array connector for communications connection with said single depressor.

16. The system according to claim 11 further comprising a casing formed in a streamlined shape around said single support cable.

17. The system according to claim 12 wherein said load bearing cable is positioned at the nose portion of said single support cable.

18. The system according to claim 15 wherein said single support cable is streamlined in shape to include a rounded leading nose portion and a tapered tail portion trailing the nose portion and wherein at least one of said array connectors is in the tail portion of said single support cable.

19. The system according to claim 14 wherein the signal component of said single support cable includes at least one array connector for communications connection with said single depressor.